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ing period of 1899, during which the number of cases was 5,180, and, of deaths, 854, as against 1,464 cases and a mortality of 263 this year.

This decided improvement may, perhaps, be due to the fact that this summer has, so far, been exceptionally cool, though it is probable that the efforts of the sanitary authorities to control the epidemic are beginning to have some effect as well.

No new case of plague has occurred since the 16th instant.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Report of dysentery in Japan from July 11 to July 20, 1900.

Locality.	Dysentery.		Locality.	Dysentery.	
	Cases.	Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.
Kioto Fu.....	23	.....	Nagano Ken	22	2
Osaka Fu.....	14	5	Nagasaki Ken.....	5	4
Tokyo Fu.....	56	15	Nara Ken .....	.....	.....
Aichi Ken.....	132	19	Niigata Ken.....	17	2
Akita Ken.....	3	.....	Oita Ken	1	.....
Awomori Ken.....	17	3	Okayama Ken.....	7	.....
Chiba Ken	85	17	Okinawa Ken.....	2	1
Fukui Ken.....	.....	.....	Saga Ken.....	.....	.....
Fukuoka Ken.....	9	2	Saitama Ken.....	27	8
Fukushima Ken.....	8	1	Shidzuoka Ken.....	167	32
Gifu Ken.....	9	1	Shiga Ken	8	1
Gumma Ken.....	60	12	Shimane Ken	1	.....
Hiogo Ken.....	11	3	Tochigi Ken.....	30	6
Hiroshima Ken	17	6	Tokushima Ken	31	5
Ibaraki Ken.....	.....	.....	Tottori Ken .....	.....	.....
Ishikawa Ken.....	4	.....	Toyama Ken.....	2	1
Iwate Ken	6	1	Wakayama Ken.....	6	.....
Kagawa Ken.....	78	17	Yamagata Ken.....	4	1
Kagoshima Ken	121	28	Yamaguchi Ken.....	4	.....
Kanagawa Ken.....	276	45	Yamanashi Ken	115	16
Kochi Ken	9	.....	Yehime Ken	14	3
Kumamoto Ken	33	4	The Hokkaido.....	.....	.....
Miyagi Ken.....	1	.....	Taiwan (Formosa).....	.....	.....
Miyazaki Ken.....	24	.....		
Miye Ken	5	1	Total	1,464	263

End of plague in Japan.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, August 1, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report that no new case of plague has occurred in Japan proper since the 16th instant, and that the authorities, in consequence, on the 24th, closed the inspection offices at the most prominent stations upon the railway between Osaka and the north.

This disappearance of plague must, I think, be ascribed to the intelligent and energetic measures employed by the sanitary officials of the Government, as the summer, so far has been marked by unusually low temperature and, consequently, the unfavorable action of excessive heat, as regards pest, can scarcely be invoked to explain the cessation of the disease.

The recent epidemic was strictly limited to the city of Osaka and two or three localities in the ken of Shidzuoka, conditions in the former place being, apparently, especially favorable for the development of an extensive outbreak, and both of the epidemic centers being comparatively near to and in frequent communication with several large cities, yet not a single case occurred at any point outside of the districts men-

tioned which could by any possibility have been derived from the affected area.

Considering the many conditions existing in Japan most favorable to the propagation of the malady, the success of the authorities in combating the disease, both last winter and during the present season, furnishes strong evidence, additional to that which has already been accumulated elsewhere, that, save in regions where all rational action is rendered nugatory by the superstition or active opposition of the people, plague must be considered as a preventable disease.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

MEXICO.

Report from Progreso—Yellow fever at Merida.

PROGRESO, MEXICO, *July 3, 1900.*

SIR: It would be a source of great pleasure to me if I could find some way of impressing upon our countrymen that persons of unhealthy habits simply court their death by coming down here expecting to work and continue in their accustomed ways. The climate and country *per se* is not unhealthy, as tropic countries go, but, to people accustomed to the northern temperature, the utmost temperance in all things should be carried out. As a matter of fact this is the last thing carried in mind until too late.

Merida has had since the commencement of the warm season, up to date, 7 cases of yellow fever, 4 of which have proved fatal.

Smallpox has claimed some victims. Hæmorrhagic smallpox has been declared in two instances, brought originally from Mexico, it is said, and certain circumstances connected with these cases have caused much alarm. I shall keep the Department duly informed in regard to these matters.

Respectfully,

EDWARD THOMPSON,

United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

Death from yellow fever at Tampico.

TAMPICO, MEXICO, *August 15, 1900.*

One death from yellow [fever] yesterday. No other cases officially reported.

SAMUEL E. MAGILL.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

TAMPICO, MEXICO, *August 16, 1900.*

SIR: On the 15th instant I sent the following cable, which I hereby confirm: "One death from yellow fever yesterday. No other cases officially reported."

From the records of the hospital I learn that the deceased was a Spanish sailor from Vera Cruz, had been sick 4 days, and post-mortem held by Dr. Matienzo proved yellow fever.

There are no other cases now in the care of any physician either in the city or the hospital. Will advise you in case of epidemic.

Respectfully,

SAMUEL E. MAGILL,

United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.